

Syllabus

HST 510 – 419 Europe Since 1945 (Spring 2022)

Professor: Bertrand Metton (bertrand.metton@rutgers.edu)
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Class Hours: Tuesday 8:30-11:30am
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30pm (or by appointment)

I. Course Description:

This course explores European history from the end of the Second World War to the present by looking at the recent social, cultural, and political developments on the continent. Some of the central themes we will cover in the class: post-war reconstruction, the Americanization of European culture and economies, the East/West divide during the cold war, student, and worker dissent in the 1960s, immigration and the transformation of European demographics, post-communist Eastern Europe, the making of the EU, and the current rise of the European Far right. In order to do so, we will rely on a wide range of sources that include official documents, novels, memoirs, visual materials such as photographs, paintings, and cartoons, as well as political writings. The course will also put a special emphasis on music and cinema as means to understand the key role played by cultural production in the evolution of European societies. The goal of the class is to provide students with a multi-layered overview of postwar European history that takes into account the complex nature of Europe's historical heritage. We will focus on the many ways (political, intellectual, artistic...) in which Europe has helped shape the modern world, but also how deeply European societies have been affected by political and cultural exchange with the rest of the world.

SAS Core Goals:

This course has been certified for **SAS Core Goals K and L:**

K – Explain the Development of some aspect of a society or culture over time.

L – Employ Historical Reasoning to study human endeavors, using appropriate assumption, methods, evidence, arguments.

II. Readings

Required Books:

- Tony Judt. *Postwar*. Penguin, 2006
- Milan Kundera. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. Harper, 2009
- Joe Sacco. *Safe Area Gorazde*. Fantagraphics, 2002
- Dan Stone. *Oxford Handbook of European History*. Oxford UP, 2012

Primary Sources & Additional Readings:

- Weekly primary sources and additional readings will be posted on the Canvas website, ordered by topic and date, in the “resources” folder.

III. Graded Assignments

Weekly Responses: Every week (Monday 9 pm deadline), students will be asked to post a response based on the weekly readings and primary sources in the “Forum” on the course’s Canvas website. These responses will be used to assess the student’s comprehension and historical analysis of the assigned materials but also foster a lively online discussion.

First Take-Home Essay: Students will complete one short essay (3-5 pages) by the middle of the semester.

Film Analysis: Students will write a short analysis of a film (3 pages).

Novel Analysis: Students will write a commentary on Milan Kundera’s novel “The Unbearable Lightness of Being” or Joe Sacco’s graphic novel “Safe Area Gorazde”.

Final Take Home Essay: Cumulative end of the semester essay (5-7 pages).

Grade Breakdown:

- Weekly Student Responses and Discussion Thread (20%)
- First Take-Home Essay (3-5 pages – 20%)
- Film Review (3-5 pages – 15%)
- Book Review (3-5 pages – 15%)
- Final Take-Home Essay (5-7 pages – 30%)

IV. Miscellaneous

Class Participation:

- It is to your benefit that you read all the material ahead of time.
- The course is intended to be interactive. Question and inquiries are encouraged.

Classroom Etiquette:

- You are responsible for familiarizing yourselves with the **History Department’s Policies Regarding Classroom Etiquette:** <http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies/52-academics/undergraduate-program/108-policy-on-mutual-responsibilities-and-classroom-etiquette>

Academic Integrity:

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** You are expected to uphold honest and ethical academic standards at all times **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** in any form will not be tolerated. This includes any form of cheating on exams, quizzes and assignments, and/or copying the work of another and presenting it as one’s own (e.g., plagiarism). The result of such behavior is failure of the exam/quiz/paper/ assignment and/or failure of the course. Additionally, all instances of cheating (intentional or accidental) will be reported to QSI and the Office of Student Affairs in accordance with college policy.

Writing Resources:

- *Writing Historical Essays: A Guide for Undergraduates* is available from the following website: <http://history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/learning-goals/writing-historical-essays>

V. Course Outline

Week 1: What was/is Europe in the 20th Century?

January 18: Course Introduction

Readings:

- Judt “Introduction & Chap. I” in *Postwar* – pp. 1-41

Week 2: Europe Year Zero: The Aftermath of WWII

January 25: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt “Chap. II & III” in *Postwar* - pp. 42-100

Sources:

- Theodore White. “Germany: Spring in the Ruins” in *Sources*, p. 270
- George C. Marshall. “Laying the Foundations for Recovery” in *Sources*, p. 277

Film: *The Third Man*. Dir. Carol Green (1949)

Week 3: The Beginning of the Cold War (1948-1955)

February 1: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt “Chap. IV & V” in *Postwar* – pp. 100-165

Sources:

- Churchill. “Iron Curtain Speech”, p. 300
- Adenauer. “Democratic Politics and Christian Ideals”, p. 289
- Khrushchev. “Report to the 20th Party Congress”, p. 301

Film: *Dr. Strangelove*. Dir. Stanley Kubrick (1964)

Week 4: Americanization in the West: Culture and Consumerism

February 8: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt “Chap. VI & VII” in *Postwar* – pp. 165-222
- Victoria de Grazia. “A Decent Standard of Living: How Europeans Were Measured by American Living Standards”

Film: *Breathless*. Dir. Jean-Luc Godard (1960)

Week 5: Stalinist Regimes and Dissent Beyond the Iron Curtain

February 15: Lecture

Readings:

- Judt “Chap. IX” pp. 278-323

Sources:

- Andor Heller. “The Hungarian Revolution of 1956”, p. 341
- Communist Party of Czechoslovakia “Action Program”, p. 344

Novel:

- Milan Kundera. “The Unbearable Lightness of Being”

Film: *The Firemen’s Ball*. Dir Miloš Forman (1967)

FIRST TAKE HOME ESSAY DUE

Week 6: De-Colonization, Feminism, and the Rise of the Global Left

February 22: Lecture

Readings:

- Judt “Chapter XII”, p. 390-420
- Frantz Fanon. “The Wretched of the Earth” Selections - *Canvas*

Sources:

- De Beauvoir “The Second Sex”, p. 352
- Cohn-Bendit “The French Student Revolt”, p. 356

Film: *The Battle of Algiers*. Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo (1966)

Week 7: Culture and Politics in the 1960s and early 1970s

March 1: Lecture

Readings:

- Judt. “Chapter XIII”, p. 422

Sources:

- Joschka Fischer “The Alteration of Industrial Society”, p. 360

Film: *The 400 Blows*. Dir. François Truffaut (1959)

Week 8: Neoliberalism and the End of the Economic Miracle

March 8: Lecture

Readings:

- Judt “Chapter XIV & XV” pp. 453-504

Sources:

- Margaret Thatcher. “The Free Market vs. State Intervention”, p. 367
- Ludwig Erhard. “West Germany’s Social Market Economy”, p. 364
- Tony Blair. “New Labour and the Unions”, p. 369

Film: *Riff-Raff*. Dir. Ken Loach (1991)

Week 9: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

Week 10: Counterculture as Protest: 70s to the 90s (East and West)

March 22: **Lecture**

- **Readings:**
- Dick Hebdige. “Subculture: The Meaning of Style”

Film: *La Jetée*. Dir. Chris Marker (1962)

FILM REVIEW DUE

Week 11: The End of Communism in Eastern Europe

March 29: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt. “Chapter XVIII” p. 559

Sources:

- Mikhail Gorbachev “Perestroika”, p. 411
- Václav Havel “Farce, Reformability, and the Future of the World”, p. 415
- Timothy Garton Ash “Berlin: Wall’s End”, p. 424

Film: *4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days*. Dir. Cristian Mungiu (2007)

Week 12: Post-Communist Reordering in Balkans and Eastern Europe

April 5: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Joe Sacco. “Safe Area Gorazde” **Entire Graphic Novel**

Film: *No Man’s Land*. Dir. Danis Tanović (2001)

Week 13: The European Union and the Pan-European Dream

April 12: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt. “Chapter XXIII” p. 749

Sources:

- Bertie Ahern. “Enlargement is About Opening Hearts”, p. 459
- Jacques Ellul. “The Betrayal of the West”, p. 492

NOVEL/GRAPHIC NOVEL REVIEW DUE

Week 14: Immigration and the Rise of Multicultural Europe

April 19: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt. “Chapter XXII”, p. 701

Sources:

- Enoch Powell. “Bringing the Immigration Issue to the Center of Politics”, p. 387
- Jörg Haider. “Multiculturalism and Love of One’s Country”, p. 376
- Walter Laqueur. “The Last Days of Europe”, p. 476

Film: *La Haine*. Dir. Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)

Week 15: Debt, Brexit and Yellow Vests: Economic and Political Trouble After 2008

April 26: **Lecture**

Readings:

- Judt. “Chapter XXIV”, p. 777

Sources:

- Zerofsky “Viktor Orban’s Far Right Vision for Europe” – *Canvas*
- Marvin Parry. “Muslin Diaspora, Far-Right, New Left” p. 488
- David Graeber. “The Center Blows Itself Up” - *Canvas*

FINAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY HANDED OUT (5-7 Pages)